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**The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## Letter dated 9 February 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith a press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 9 February 1999 concerning the meeting of the Arbitration Tribunal for Brcko in Vienna (see annex).

I would be very grateful if you would have this letter and its annex published as a document of the General Assembly under item 41 of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

*(Signed)* Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

99-03372 (E) 110299

Annex

## Press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia issued on 9 February 1999

Regarding the meeting of the Arbitration Tribunal for Brcko in Vienna, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that the activities undertaken by the authorities of Republika Srpska and by the international community with respect to the Brcko issue have made it possible to make progress. The previous extension of the deadlines for reaching a final arbitration award has been seen by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as necessary for the creation of conditions for a lasting and just solution of this important issue, in line with the letter and spirit of the Dayton/Paris agreement. In this respect, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the view that the subject matter of the arbitration procedure and the arbitration award is to establish the inter-entity boundary line near Brcko in a way that would guarantee the unity of the territory of Republika Srpska and recognize the fact that Brcko is an integral part of that territory.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that this vital issue for Republika Srpska should be settled in a principled manner, by strict compliance with the Dayton/Paris agreement and respect for the legitimate interests of Republika Srpska, which is an essential prerequisite for final success of the Dayton/Paris peace agreement.